

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00431 301926Z

53

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /116 W

----- 092529

P 301600Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1408

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

COMCARIBSEAFRON SAN JUAN PR UNN

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS CURACAO 431

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PINT, ELAB, NA

SUBJECT : POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

FOR BURKE - ARA/LA/CAR

1. THIS WEEK, PRIOR TO THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS ON AUGUST 3, THE POLITICAL POT IN CURACAO HAS COME TO A FURIOUS BOIL. THE LABOR UNIONS, PRODDED BY RADICALS, HAVE MADE A COLLECTIVE DEMAND ON THE GOVERNMENT ON THE INFLATION ISSUE. THEY DEMAND A RETAIL PRICE ROLL-BACK TO JULY 13, 1973. THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS ROLLED BACK PRICES TO JULY 23, STATES THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THIS DEMAND BECAUSE OF SKYROCKETING PRICES IN THE 10-DAY PERIOD INTERVENING BETWEEN JULY 13 AND 23. THERE IS NOW A THREAT OF A GENERAL STRIKE ON THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION AND SOME UNIONS ARE REQUESTING THEIR MEMBERS BOYCOTT THE ELECTION. THE RADICALS APPARENTLY HOPE BY USING THIS TACTIC TO SWAY THAT RADICAL PORTION OF THE LABOR VOTE WHICH WOULD TURN UP AT THE POLLS TO THE SMALLER PARTIES OF THE RADICALS' FAVOR.

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PAGE 02 CURACA 00431 301926Z

WM IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE RADICALS WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN THEIR ENDEAVOR TO SWING THE LABOR UNIONS AND CRACK THE MAJORITIES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE NATIONAL PARTY. AT THE MOMENT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION WHICH SEEMS TO BE EXACTLY WHAT THE RADICALS WANT.

3. THERE IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE HEAVY POLITICAL INFIGHTING AMONG POWERFUL MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH COULD RESULT IN WEAKENING THAT PARTY'S STRENGTH. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DOMINANT ON CURACAO FOR SO LONG, REPRESENTS MUCH OF THE CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY.

4. SO FAR THE SINT MAARTEN, ARUBA AND BONAIRE POLITICAL SCENES APPEAR TO BE RELATIVELY QUIET.

5. THE THREATENED GENERAL STRIKE ON CURACAO HAS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF TENSION AND APPREHENSION ON THE ISLAND WHICH COULD POSSIBLY KEEP THE CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY FROM THE POLLS AND CAUSE A SWING TO THE LEFT. LOFTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: CURACAO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, NA
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